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LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and in response to the contents of the letter from the Iraqi representative (S/23857) concerning the demilitarized zone, I wish to state the following:

1. Iraq's claim that Kuwaiti boats gave chase to a number of Iraqi vessels in the Khor Abdullah area on 5 April 1992 is false. What in fact happened was that on Friday, 3 April 1992, at 7.30 p.m. (local time), a Kuwaiti coastal patrol arrested four Iraqi infiltrators after they had penetrated seven nautical miles into territorial waters north-east of Faylakah. Following questioning, they were returned to Iraq under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

2. Iraq's claim that a number of civilians and Kuwaiti policemen set up signposts near Al-Shaheed guard post on 5 April 1992 is spurious. As is well known, Kuwait has made arrangements with civilian contractors to clear the demilitarized zone south of the boundary line adopted by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). A contractor was present at that location purely for the purpose of carrying out legitimate work inside Kuwaiti territory. It should be noted that Al-Shaheed guard post is located inside Kuwaiti territory at coordinates 659299.

3. Iraq's claim that a Kuwaiti patrol fired on the Umm Qasr police post on 18 April 1992 is false. As we have mentioned before, the post is situated near the UNIKOM headquarters in the northern sector, which is constantly patrolled by the Mission. If there had been a violation by the Kuwaiti police, UNIKOM would so have informed the Kuwaiti authorities. As we have also previously mentioned, the Umm Qasr police post is one of the five Iraqi posts situated on the Kuwaiti side of the boundary line shown on the UNIKOM map, as confirmed in the reports of the Mission (S/23766, para. 22 (d)).

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

4. Iraq's claim that four vans approached the Iraqi Talha guard post on 19 April 1992, set up markers at that location and then headed for the Kuwaiti Ratqa guard post is also false. As noted in paragraph 2, Kuwait is determined to clear the area of mines and has made arrangements with contractors to carry out this task, which is being conducted in consultation with UNIKOM. Here also, we should like to point out that the existence of the Iraqi Talha guard post is in itself a flagrant violation of the provisions of the cease-fire because it is located inside Kuwaiti territory and is one of the five posts referred to by the Secretary-General in his reports.

5. Iraq's claim that Kuwait carried out engineering work by building a dirt road on 20 April 1992 at geographical coordinates inside Iraqi territory is false. In fact, an engineering unit under contract to Kuwait carried out activity inside Kuwaiti territory.

6. Iraq's claim that individuals fired in the direction of the Iraqi Abu Musa post on 25 April 1992 is also spurious. Suffice it to say that the Abu Musa post too is one of the five Iraqi posts which Iraq persists in attempting to remove from Kuwaiti jurisdiction.

In short, Iraq's assertions prove in themselves - even without any response on our part - that the Iraqi regime is violating the provisions of the cease-fire by insisting on maintaining five police posts inside Kuwaiti territory, four of which were mentioned in its letter. Nor is it possible to ignore the regime's responsibility for the repeated acts of infiltration from Iraq into Kuwaiti territory.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative